

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DATE: MARCH 3, 2020
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT ELECT RICH PROCTOR

President Elect Rich Proctor called the meeting of the Rotary Club of Honolulu to order shortly after noon at the Royal Hawaiian Monarch Room. **Samantha Haas'** inspiration cited the many benefits she has gained during her nine years of Club membership. She encouraged all of us to think about the benefits we have gained. **Sally Mist** led the Pledge to the Flag and **Sumner Howard** the singing of "America the Beautiful". **Craig Robinson** accompanied on the piano. **Jennifer Oyer** introduced the guests, who included a Rotary couple from Germany (who shared their club flag), a Rotarian from Wisconsin, a Rotarian-to-be (Jesse Lopez), Julia Allen, a guest of **Robyn McCreary**, and Laren Eustace, a prospective member from Chicago.

PE Rich announced the birthdays of the week and the club anniversaries.* **Rob Hale** announced the alignment of the stars on Saturday which gave the go-ahead to begin work on the park. **Gwen Yamamoto Lau** directed members' attention to the sign-up sheets on the tables for the March 24th Pop-Up Pau Hana event at Entrepreneurs Sandbox. Paul Yonamine, Chairman and CEO of Central Pacific Bank will be the speaker. **Beth-Ann Kozlovich** asked for volunteers on the committee that will plan the event our Club is hosting at the International Convention. **Rich** announced the sign-up sheet on the lobby table for the Rotary Story Time on March 14. He also announced the passing of former member **Sig Rambler**, founder of the Wo Center at Punahou. He suggested members look up **PP Terry George's** article about education in the *Star Advertiser*. **Rick Tabor** invited members to an upcoming Kupuna meeting at Dave & Busters, featuring a panel discussing kupuna, of course. Panelists include Keali'i Lopez with AARP, the Meals on Wheels CEO, member **Poki'i Balaz** on the neurology of Alzheimers, and **Rick Tabor** himself. The meeting is on March 31 and the cost \$26. **Reese Liggett** listed and thanked the members who volunteered at Hamakua Marsh Sunday.

After ten minutes of fellowship, **Bill Brizee** introduced Dwight Nadamoto and Lynn Costales, the speakers for the day, both of whom have many years of state and county service in the Prosecutor's office. Mr. Nadamoto opened with a discussion of a law passed in 2016 that allowed violent, repeat drug offenders to be placed on parole and its impact. The rationale for the change includes that after decades of incarceration the level for drug offenses remained level and that the prisons were overfull of non-violent drug offenders. He argued this latter was false, as the "non-violent" offenders had/have many other indictments against them. Legislators are doing away with drug programs and weakening the laws dealing with drug offenders. Now repeat violators go on probation. Senator Brian Schatz has asked for federal help based on statistics that show Hawaii has a bigger problem with ice than the national state averages, in contrast to the weakening response by the Hawaii courts and legislature. The ice in Hawaii is becoming stronger and more dangerous, more are addicted, and there are more deaths due to ice. Nadamoto questions why one would think punishing drug use less would lessen drug use. Lynn Costales' personal

assessment is that the system is built for the benefit of the offenders, not the victims. Victims' rights are fading. The court system is not holding offenders accountable. It has been all right to have 20 violations and still go on probation. The requests of prosecutors for jail time are ignored by the court. Juveniles with drug violations are simply turned over to their parents. The current situation is very discouraging for prosecutors and police. Nadamoto is in favor of the new prison because it could have room for in-house drug programs that would get people on the road to recovery before they are released. A Q&A followed the talks.

PE Proctor thanked the speakers and presented them with a book to sign, that will be given to Palolo Elementary School. The meeting was closed with the group singing of "*Hawai'i Aloha*", led by **Bub Wo**.

*See the *Tradewind* for the lists

Nancy White, Scribe